

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

Photographic processing of color photographic materials can be carried out using polyphosphonic acids or salts thereof in acidic “stop” solutions or wash solutions after color development. When used in acidic stop solutions, 5 the polyphosphonic acid is preferably carried over into the bleaching solution to provide added stability of the bleaching agent. The acidic stop solutions can also include organic thiols that are used as bleaching accelerators when carried over into the bleaching solutions.